

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Consider this message a "Heads Up" notice. FYI, I've pasted a copy of the Washington State Recall Notice below:

**SUBJECT:** DSCP Vendor Recall 034-2003: Alfalfa Sprouts (Harmony Farms-Auburn, WA)

**Date Issued:** December 1, 2003

**Recall Notification Level:** Retail



# News Release

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**For immediate release:** November 26, 2003

(03-188)

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***SALMONELLA* OUTBREAK PROMPTS ALFALFA SPROUT RECALL BY WASHINGTON COMPANY**

*Six people ill in Oregon; one Washington case possibly connected*

OLYMPIA — The Oregon Department of Human Services has identified alfalfa sprouts from a Washington firm as the probable source of an outbreak of salmonellas among Oregon residents; one Washington case also appears to be connected to the outbreak. Harmony Farms, the producer of the alfalfa sprouts, has announced a voluntary recall of several alfalfa sprout products from northwest retail outlets.

**Oregon health officials say at least six Oregon residents have been infected with the unusual type of *salmonella* bacteria, and more are expected. The Washington State Department of Health has one case that also appears to be the same type of bacteria. The contaminated sprouts were sold under the brand name "Harmony Farms of Auburn, Washington." Harmony Farms, LLC of Auburn, Washington, is voluntarily recalling all of its 5 ounce "Fresh Alfalfa Sprouts", "Gourmet Salad Sprouts" and "Fresh Alfalfa & Oregon Onion Sprouts", which come in clear plastic clamshells, and all of its cases of 1 lb., 2 lb., 3 lb. and 5 lb. packages of alfalfa sprouts. The recall was initiated because the product may be contaminated with *Salmonella*. Harmony Farms' products are distributed to retail outlets, restaurants, institutions and schools in Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Idaho. Purchasers of Harmony Farms' products under recall are urged to return these products to the place of purchase. Anyone with questions about this recall action may call Harmony Farms at (253) 833-8945.**

Dave Gifford, food program manager with the Washington State Department of Health says, “Washing sprouts may not remove significant levels of the bacteria. People should thoroughly cook all sprouts to reduce the risk of illness. People with a higher risk of serious illness should definitely avoid eating raw or lightly cooked sprouts.”

State and federal agencies are working with Harmony Farms to remove potentially contaminated sprouts from distribution. Retailers and wholesalers in the recall areas should segregate the recalled products from other produce and contact Harmony Farms for additional information. Restaurant and deli operators should check their stock immediately to identify and pull any of the recalled products.

Raw sprouts have been identified as the cause of outbreaks of salmonellosis, *E. coli* O157:H7 infections and other communicable diseases in recent years. Persons who wish to reduce the risk of food borne illness should not eat raw sprouts.

Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection that can cause diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Symptoms usually develop within one to five days after eating contaminated food. Most people with salmonellosis improve without medical attention and do not need to be treated with antibiotics, but the illness may be serious among those in high-risk categories, including the elderly, very young children and those with depressed immune systems. People who have eaten sprouts and develop diarrhea should seek medical advice.

**Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.**

#### **DSCP Instructions**

Accountable Activities should follow the instructions contained in the Washington State Recall Notice.

**The Point Of Contact** for this DSCP Recall notice is CW3 Melinda Strother, Consumer Safety Officer, at DSCP-HS. Voice, DSN: 444-7746/2911, Commercial (215) 737-7746/2911, or by Fax, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526.

***Very Respectfully,***  
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